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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,913	07/15/2003	Anand Huprikar	12163	7163
28484	7590	02/13/2006	EXAMINER	
BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT CARL-BOSCH STRASSE 38, 67056 LUDWIGSHAFEN LUDWIGSHAFEN, 69056 GERMANY			NGUYEN, XUAN LAN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3683	

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/619,913	HUPRIKAR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lan Nguyen	3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2005 and 18 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-13,16-19,31-33,35,37 and 48-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-13,16-19,31-33,35,37 and 48-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/23/05</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>page 250 from dictionary</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pradel (US 6,076,794).

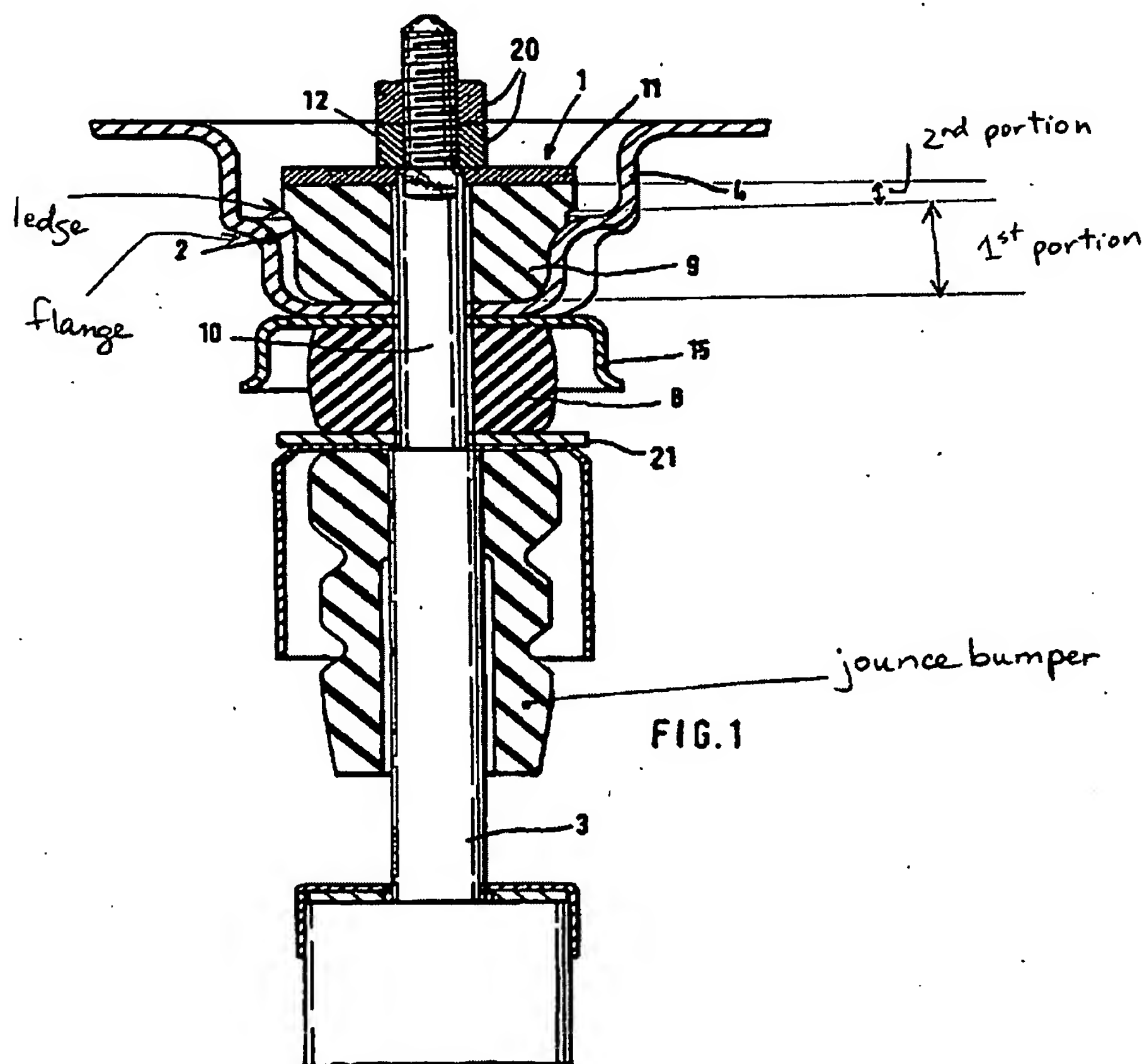
Re: claim 1, Pradel shows a mounting assembly for a wheel suspension system of a vehicle having a vehicle body in figure 1, as in the present invention, said mounting assembly comprising: a support structure 4, 15 having an aperture and adapted to be mounted to the vehicle body; a piston rod 3 at least partially disposed within said aperture and displaceable relative to said support structure along a line of travel; a plate 11 mounted to said piston rod, and moving relative to said support structure during said displacement of said piston rod; and an insulator 9 disposed between said support structure and said plate with said insulator substantially surrounding said piston rod and abutting said plate for coupling said piston rod to said support structure; said insulator having a first portion, as marked below, defining a first resistance and a first maximum width, as shown, for isolating said displacement of said piston rod and said plate during an application of a first force along said line of travel in a first direction, downward, which at least partially compresses said first portion, and a second portion, as marked

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below, defining a second resistance and a second maximum width, as shown, with said second resistance being greater than said first resistance for controlling said displacement of said piston rod and said plate after said application of said first force and during an application of a second force along said line of travel in said first direction, wherein said second force is greater than said first force such that said first portion is compressed before the second portion is compressed; and said second width being larger than said first width to define a ledge, as marked below, on said second portion extending outwardly beyond said width of said first portion; said plate having a width at least equal to said second maximum width of said second portion, as shown; said support structure including a first cup 4 defining a cavity and an inner surface with said first portion of said insulator at least partially disposed within said cavity for compressing said first portion without compressing said ledge and said second portion when said first force is applied; said first portion of said insulator disposed within said cavity defining an exterior surface complementary in configuration with said inner surface of said first cup and contiguous with said inner surface, note the cited definition of the term "contiguous" as touching at a point, Pradel's insulator 9's exterior surface is touching the inner surface of the first cup 4 at a point on the right of the figure below, note also that Pradel's insulator 9's exterior surface is complementary with said inner surface of said cup 4 in terms of being fitted inside of cup 4; said support structure further including a flange as marked below extending outwardly from said first cup 4 with said flange uniformly positioned relative to said ledge with said ledge of said second portion engaging and compressing against said flange during said application of

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said second force to transmit loads of said second force from said plate to said support structure, note that Pradel's flange is considered uniformly positioned relative to said ledge since insulator 9's exterior surface is complementary to the inner surface of cup 4 in order to prevent rotation as stated in column 3, lines 50-54.



Re: claim 2, when the piston rod moves downward, the first portion is compressed before the second portion would be compressed since cup 4 is stationary while the piston rod 3 is moving downwardly relative to cup 4.

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Re: claims 3 and 4, figure 1 shows that the first and second portions of the insulator are formed of the same homogenous material.

Re: claims 7 -11, figure 1 shows the insulator 9 with the ledge, first height, second height, first circumference and second circumference as claimed.

Re: claim 12, figure 1 shows said insulator 9 mounted to piston rod 3.

Re: claim 13, figure 1 shows notch 12 with said plate 11 abutting said notch.

Re: claim 16, figure 1 further shows a jounce bumper as marked above.

Re: claims 18 and 19, figure 1 further shows a second insulator 8 mounted within the second cup 15 of the support structure 4, 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pradel in view of Tondato.

Pradel's mounting assembly and isolation apparatus, as rejected above, discloses that insulator 9 is made of rubber. Tondato teaches that a micro-cellular polyurethane and a rubber are well known equivalent materials for use in elastomeric deformable elements to absorb vibration, see column 3, lines 60-62. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

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have modified Pradel's assembly to include an insulator comprising of a micro-cellular polyurethane material instead of a rubber material since these two materials are old and well known equivalent materials for use in elastomeric deformable elements to absorb vibration as taught by Tondato; and the use of either of these materials is considered to be a matter of choice.

5. Claims 17, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37-39 and 48-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pradel.

Re: claim 17, Pradel's assembly comprises said jounce bumper being mounted to said plate 11 on a same side of said insulator such that loads experienced by said jounce bumper are translated through said plate 11, said ledge of said second portion, and into said support structure while claim 17 requires that said jounce bumper is mounted to said plate on an opposite side from said insulator. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the plate, the insulator and the jounce bumper as claimed, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70. Note that although Pradel's arrangement of the insulator and the jounce bumper on the same side of the plate, the manners in which the force being transmitted to the support structure is the same as claimed in claim 17.

Re: claim 31, Pradel shows a mounting assembly for a wheel suspension system of a vehicle having a vehicle body in figure 1, as in the present invention, said mounting assembly comprising: a support structure 4, 15, having an aperture and adapted to be mounted to the vehicle body; a piston rod 3 at least partially disposed within said

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aperture and displaceable relative to said support structure along a line of travel; a plate 11 mounted to said piston rod, and moving relative to said support structure during said displacement of said piston rod; and an insulator 9 disposed about said piston rod between said support structure and said plate with said insulator abutting said plate for coupling said piston rod to said support structure; said insulator having a first portion, as marked above, defining a first resistance and a first maximum width for isolating said displacement of said piston rod and said plate during an application of a first force along said line of travel in a first direction, downward, which at least partially compresses said first portion, and a second portion, as marked above, defining a second resistance and a second maximum width with said second resistance being greater than said first resistance for controlling said displacement of said piston rod and said plate after said application of said first force and during an application of a second force along said line of travel in said first direction, wherein said second force is greater than said first force such that said first portion is compressed before the second portion is compressed and said second width being larger than said first width to define a ledge, as marked above on said second portion extending outwardly beyond said width of said first portion, and a jounce bumper, as marked above, disposed about said piston rod and mounted to said plate on a same side from said insulator 9 for translating movement of the wheel suspension system during application of said second force; said plate having a width at least equal to said maximum width of said second portion and a maximum width of said jounce bumper, as shown; said support structure including a first cup 4 defining a cavity and an inner surface with said first portion of said insulator at least partially disposed

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within said cavity and configured to be contiguous with said inner surface for compressing said first portion without compressing said ledge and said second portion when said first force is applied; note the cited definition of the term "contiguous" as touching at a point, Pradel's insulator 9's exterior surface is touching the inner surface of the first cup 4 at a point on the right of the figure above; said support structure further including a flange extending outwardly from said first cup, as marked above, with said flange uniformly positioned relative to said ledge for positioning said ledge between said flange and said plate 11 such that during said application of said second force, said ledge of said second portion engages and compresses against said flange to transmit loads of said second force from said plate to said support structure; note that Pradel's flange is considered uniformly positioned relative to said ledge since insulator 9's exterior surface is complementary to the inner surface of cup 4 in order to prevent rotation as stated in column 3, lines 50-54. Pradel's assembly comprises said jounce bumper being mounted to said plate 11 on a same side of said insulator while claim 31 requires that said jounce bumper is mounted to said plate on an opposite side from said insulator. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the plate, the insulator and the jounce bumper as claimed, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70. Note that although Pradel's arrangement of the insulator and the jounce bumper on the same side of the plate, the manners in which the movement of the wheel suspension system being translated during application of said second force is the same as claimed in claim 31.

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Re: claim 32, when the piston rod moves downward, the first portion is compressed before the second portion would be compressed since cup 4 is stationary while the piston rod 3 is moving downwardly relative to cup 4.

Re: claims 35, 49-51 and 53 figure 1 shows the insulator 9 with the ledge, a first height, a second height, a first circumference and a second circumference wherein said insulator is being mounted to piston rod as claimed.

Re: claim 37, figure 1 shows notch 12 with said plate 11 abutting said notch.

Re: claims 48 and 52, figure 1 shows that the first and second portions of the insulator are formed of the same homogenous material.

Re: claims 54 and 55, figure 1. further shows a second insulator 8 mounted within the second cup 15 of the support structure 4, 15.

6. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pradel in view of Tondato.

Pradel's mounting assembly and isolation apparatus, as rejected above, discloses that insulator 9 is made of rubber. Tondato teaches that a micro-cellular polyurethane and a rubber are well known equivalent materials for use in elastomeric deformable elements to absorb vibration, see column 3, lines 60-62. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Pradel's assembly to include an insulator comprising of a micro-cellular polyurethane material instead of a rubber material since these two materials are old and well known equivalent materials for use in elastomeric deformable elements to absorb

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vibration as taught by Tondato; and the use of either of these materials is considered to be a matter of choice.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 10/28/05 and 11/18/05 have been considered but found to be non-persuasive. Applicant argues that Pradel's insulator 9's exterior surface is not contiguous with the inner surface of the cup 4. A copy of the definition of "contiguous" is enclosed for Applicant's record. As stated above, Pradel's insulator 9's exterior surface is contiguous with the inner surface of the cup 4 as shown in figure 1 wherein insulator 9 is touching the cup 4 on the right of figure 1. Applicant further argues that the flange of Pradel is not uniformly positioned relative to said ledge. It is interpreted that Pradel's flange is positioned relative to said ledge with a pattern as shown in figure 1 such that the exterior of the insulator 9 would touch and not touch the inner surface of cup 4 in the pattern repeating circumferentially in order to prevent rotation as stated in column 3, lines 50-54, of Pradel. Based on the above stated reasons, the rejection is still deemed proper and is repeated above.

8. It is further noted that Applicant did not further amend the claims as proposed in the interview dated 11/15/05 wherein the relationship between the insulator 32 and the cup 16 of the instant invention is to be in direct contact at all time for the entire exterior and interior surfaces, respectively.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lan Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan can be reached on (571) 272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lan Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3683

Lan Nguyen 2/1/08

attention : STUDY 3 : the act of regarding steadily 4 : INTENTION.

EXPECTATION

contemplative \kan-'tem-pla-tiv; 'kan-'tem-plā-, -tem-\ *adj* (14c) : marked by or given to contemplation; *specif* : of or relating to a religious order devoted to prayer and penance — **contemplative-ly** *adv* — **contemplative-ness** *n*

contemplative *n* (14c) : a person who practices contemplation

contem-por-a-ne-ity \kan-'tem-p(-ē)-rē-'nē-ə-tē-, -nā-\ *n* (1772) : the quality or state of being contemporaneous or contemporary

contem-por-a-ne-ous \kan-'tem-p(-ā)-nē-əs\ *adj* [L. *contemporaneus*, fr. *com-* + *tempor-*, *tempus* time] (ca. 1656) : existing, occurring, or originating during the same time *syn* see **contemporary** — **contem-por-a-ne-ously** *adv* — **contem-por-a-ne-ous-ness** *n*

contem-por-ary \kan-'tem-p(-er-ē)-rē-\ *adj* [*com-* + L. *tempor-*, *tempus* (1631) 1 : happening, existing, living, or coming into being during the same period of time 2 a : SIMULTANEOUS b : marked by characteristics of the present period : MODERN, CURRENT — **contem-por-ary-ly** \-tem-p(-er-ē)-rē-\ *adv*

syn CONTEMPORARY, CONTEMPORANEOUS, COEVAL, SYNCHRONOUS, SIMULTANEOUS, CONCURRENT mean existing or occurring at the same time.

contemporary is likely to apply to people and what relates to them (Abraham Lincoln was *contemporary* with Charles Darwin). **contem-por-a-neous** applies to events (*contemporaneous* accounts of the kidnapping). **coeval** refers usu. to periods, ages, eras, eons (two stars thought to be *coeval*). **SYNCHRONOUS** implies exact correspondence in time and esp. in periodic intervals (*synchronous* timepieces). **SIMULTANEOUS** implies correspondence in a moment of time (the two shots were *simultaneous*). **CONCURRENT** is applied to events and may be used in order to avoid implication of causal relationship (the end of World War II was *coincident* with a great vintage year).

contemporary *n*, *pl* -far-les (1646) 1 : one that is contemporary with another 2 : one of the same or nearly the same age as another

contem-por-ize \kan-'tem-p(-rī)-z\ *v* -rī-zed-, -rī-zing (1646) : to make contemporary

contempt \kan-'tem(p)-\ *n* [ME, fr. L. *contemptus*, fr. *contemere* (14c) 1 a : the act of despising : the state of mind of one who despises : DISDAIN b : lack of respect or reverence for something 2 : the state of being despised 3 : willful disobedience to or open disrespect of a court, judge, or legislative body (~ of court)]

contem-p-ible \kan-'tem(p)-i-bəl\ *adj* (14c) 1 : worthy of contempt 2 *obs* : SCORNFUL, CONTEMPTUOUS — **contem-p-ibly** \-tem(p)-i-b(-l)-ē\ *adv* — **contem-p-ible-ness** *n* — **contem-p-ibly** \-tem(p)-i-b(-l)-ē\ *adv*

syn CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE, PITTABLE, SORRY, SCURRY mean arousing or deserving scorn. **CONTEMPTIBLE** may imply any quality provoking scorn or a low standing in any scale of values (a *contemptible* liar). **DESPICABLE** may imply utter worthlessness and usu. suggests arousing an attitude of moral indignation (a *despicable* crime). **PITTABLE** applies to what inspires mixed contempt and pity (a *pittable* attempt at tragedy). **SORRY** may stress pitiable inadequacy or may suggest wretchedness or sordidness (this rattler is a sorry excuse for a car). **SCURRY** adds to **DESPICABLE** an implication of arousing disgust (a *scurry* crew of hangers-on).

contemp-tu-ous \-'tem(p)-chə-wəs-, -shwəs\ *adj* [L. *contemptus* (1595) : manifesting, feeling, or expressing contempt — **contemp-tu-ously** *adv* — **contemp-tu-ous-ness** *n*

contend \kan-'tend\ *v* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *contendere*, fr. L. *contendere*, fr. *com-* + *tendere* to stretch — more at **THIN**] *v* (15c) 1 : to strive or vie in contest or rivalry or against difficulties : STRUGGLE 2 : to strive in debate : ARGUE ~ *vi* 1 : MAINTAIN, ASSERT (~ed that he was right) 2 : to struggle for : CONTEST

contender \-'ten-dər\ *n* (1547) : one that contends; esp : a competitor for a championship or high honor (a heavyweight title ~)

content \kan-'tent\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *contentus*, fr. pp. of *continerē* to hold in, contain — more at **CONTAIN**] (15c) : CONTENTED, SATISFIED

content *v* (15c) 1 : to appease the desires of 2 : to limit (oneself) in requirements, desires, or actions

content *n* (1579) : CONTENTMENT (gate to his heart's ~)

content \kän-'tent\ *n* [ME, fr. L. *contentus*, pp. of *continerē* to contain] (15c) 1 a : something contained — usu. used in pl. (the jar's ~s) (the drawer's ~s) b : the topics or matter treated in a written work (table of ~s) 2 a : SUBSTANCE, GIST b : MEANING, SIGNIFICANCE c : the events, physical details, and information in a work of art — compare **FORM** 10b 3 a : the matter dealt with in a field of study b : a part, element, or complex of parts 4 : the amount of specified material contained : PROPORTION

content analysis *n* (1945) : analysis of the manifest and latent content of a body of communicated material (as a book or film) through a classification, tabulation, and evaluation of its key symbols and themes in order to ascertain its meaning and probable effect

contented \kan-'ten-təd\ *adj* (1526) : feeling or manifesting satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation (a ~ smile) — **content-ed-ly** *adv* — **content-ed-ness** *n*

contention \kan-'ten(t)-shən\ *n* [ME *contencion*, fr. MF, fr. L. *contentio*-, *contentio*, fr. *contendere*] (14c) 1 : an act or instance of contending 2 : a point advanced or maintained in a debate or argument

3 : RIVALRY, COMPETITION *syn* see **DISCORD**

contentious \kan-'ten(t)-shəs\ *adj* (15c) 1 : likely to cause contention (a ~ argument) 2 : exhibiting an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrels and disputes (a man of a most ~ nature) *syn* see **BELLETTANT** — **contentiously** *adv* — **contentious-ness** *n*

contentment \kan-'tent-mənt\ *n* (15c) 1 : the quality or state of being contented 2 : something that contents

content word \-'kän-'tent-\ *n* (1940) : a word that primarily expresses

the subject of dispute, contention, or litigation; esp : DISPUTE, CHALLENGE — **content-able** \-'tes-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **content-er** *n*

contest \kän-'test\ *n* (1647) 1 : a struggle for superiority or victory without direct contact with or interference from his competitors

contestant \kan-'tes-tənt\ *also* 'kän-\ *n* (1665) 1 : one that participates in a contest 2 : one that contests an award or decision

contes-ta-tion \kän-'tes-tā-shən\ *n* (1580) : CONTROVERSY, DEBATE

context \kän-'tekst\ *n* [ME, weaving together of words, fr. L. *contextus* connection of words, coherence, fr. *contextere* to weave together, fr. *com-* + *texere* to weave — more at **TECHNICAL**] (ca. 1568) 1 : the part of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning 2 : the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs : ENVIRONMENT, SETTING — **context-less** \-'tekst-ləs\ *adj* — **context-tual** \kän-'tekst-cha-wəl, -chəl\ *adj* — **context-u-al-ly** *adv*

context-free \kän-'tekst-'frē\ *adj* (1964) : of, relating to, or being a grammar or language based on rules that describe a change in a string without reference to elements outside of the string; *also* : being such a rule

con-text-tu-al-ize \kan-'teks-cha-wə-'līz-, -cha-'līz\ *v* -ī-zed-, -ī-zing (1934) : to place (as a word or activity) in a context

con-text-ure \kan-'teks-cha-, 'kän-, -kän-\ *n* [F, fr. L. *contextus*, pp. of *contextere*] (1603) 1 : the act, process, or manner of weaving parts into a whole; *also* : a structure so formed (a ~ of lies) 2 : CONTEXT

con-tig-u-ity \kän-'tə-'gyū-ə-tē\ *n*, *pl* -tī-tēs (1612) : the quality or state of being contiguous : PROXIMITY

con-tig-u-ous \kan-'tī-'gyə-wəs\ *adj* [L. *contiguus*, fr. *contingere* to have contact with — more at **CONTINGENT**] (ca. 1609) 1 : being in actual contact 2 : touching along a boundary or at a point 2 of angles : ADJACENT 3 : next or near in time or sequence 4 : touching or connected throughout in an unbroken sequence (~ row houses) *syn* see **ADJACENT** — **con-tig-u-ously** *adv* — **con-tig-u-ous-ness** *n*

con-ti-n-ence \kan-'tī-'nən(t)s\ *n* (14c) 1 : SELF-RESTRAINT; esp : a refraining from sexual intercourse 2 : the ability to retain a bodily discharge voluntarily (fecal ~)

con-ti-nent \kän-'tī-'nən(t)\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *continent*-, *continent* fr. pp. of *continere* to hold in — more at **CONTAIN**] (14c) 1 : extending in continuance 2 *obs* : RESTRICTIVE — **con-ti-nen-t-ly** *adv*

con-ti-nen-tal \kän-'tī-'nən(t)-l\ *adj* (1760) 1 a : of, relating to, or characteristic of a continent (~ waters); *specif* : often *cap* : of or relating to the continent of Europe excluding the British Isles b *often cap* : of, relating to, or being a cuisine derived from the classic dishes of Europe and esp. France 2 a *often cap* : of or relating to the colonies later forming the U.S. (*Continental* Congress) b : being the part of the U.S. on the No. American continent; *also* : being the part of the U.S. comprising the lower 48 states — **con-ti-nen-tal-ly** \-'tī-'ē\ *adv*

continental *n* (1777) 1 a *often cap* : an American soldier of the Revolution in the Continental army b (1) : a piece of Continental paper currency (2) : the least bit (not worth a ~) 2 : an inhabitant of a continent and esp. the continent of Europe

continental breakfast *n*, *often cap* C (1911) : a light breakfast (as of rolls or toast and coffee)

continental drift *n* (1926) : a hypothetical slow movement of the continents on a deep-seated viscous zone within the earth — compare **PLATE TECTONICS**

continental shelf *n* (1892) : a shallow submarine plain of varying width forming a border to a continent and typically ending in a steep slope to the oceanic abyss

continental slope *n* (1900) : the usu. steep slope from a continental shelf to the ocean floor

con-tin-gence \kan-'tī-'jən(t)s\ *n* (ca. 1530) 1 : CONTINGENCY 2 : TANGENCY

con-tin-gen-cy \kan-'tī-'jən(t)-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies (1561) 1 : the quality or state of being contingent 2 : a contingent event or condition; as : an event (as an emergency) that may but is not certain to occur (~ring to provide for every ~) b : something liable to happen as an adjunct to or result of something else *syn* see **JUNCTURE**

contingency fee *n* (1945) : a fee for services (as a lawyer) paid upon successful completion of the services and usu. calculated as a percentage of the gain realized for the client — *also* **contingent fee**

contingency table *n* (ca. 1947) : a table of data in which the row entries tabulate the data according to one variable and the column entries tabulate it according to another variable and which is used esp. in the study of the correlation between variables

con-tin-gent \kan-'tī-'jən(t)\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *contingens*, pp. of *contingere* to have contact with, befall, fr. *com-* + *tangere* to touch — more at **TANGENT**] (14c) 1 : likely but not certain to happen : POSSIBLE 2 : not logically necessary; esp : EMPIRICAL 3 a : happening by chance or unforeseen causes b : subject to chance or unseen effects : UNPREDICTABLE c : intended for use in circumstances not completely foreseen 4 : dependent on or conditioned by something else 5 : not necessitated : determined by free choice *syn* see **ACCIDENTAL** — **con-tin-gent-ly** *adv*

contingent *n* (1548) 1 : something contingent : CONTINGENCY 2 : a representative group : DELEGATION, DETACHMENT

con-tin-u-al \kan-'tī-'yū-əl-, -yāl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *continuus* continuous] (14c) 1 : continuing indefinitely in time without interruption (~ fear) 2 : recurring rapidly usu. rapid succession (a history of ~

rupted activity (annoyed by the incessant quarreling). **PERPETUAL** suggests unending repetition or lasting duration (a land of *perpetual* snowfall). **PERENNIAL** implies enduring existence often through constant renewal (a *perennial* source of controversy).

con-tin-u-ance \kan-'tī-'yū-ən(t)s\ *n* (14c) 1 : CONTINUATION 2 : the extent of continuing : DURATION 3 : the quality of enduring : PERMANENCE 4 : an adjournment of a court case to a future day

con-tin-u-ant \-'yū-ənt\ *n* (1861) 1 : something that continues or serves as a continuation 2 : a speech sound (as a fricative or vowel) that is produced without a complete closure of the breath passage — compare **STOP** — **continuant** *adj*

continue *adj* (1555) *obs* : CONTINUOUS, UNINTERRUPTED

con-tin-u-a-tion \kan-'tī-'yū-ə-'tā-shən\ *n* (14c) 1 : the act or fact of continuing in or the prolongation of a state or activity 2 : resumption after an interruption 3 : something that continues, increases, or adds

con-tin-u-a-tive \kan-'tī-'yū-ə-'tā-tiv-, -wə-'tīv\ *adj* (1684) : expressing continuity or continuation (as of an idea or action)

con-tin-u-e-for \-'wə-'tē-\ *v* -tī-'nēd-, -tī-'nū-'g\ [ME, fr. MF *continuer*, fr. *continuer*, fr. *continuer*] *v* (14c) 1 : to maintain without interruption a condition, course, or action 2 : to remain in existence : ENDURE 3 : to remain in a place or condition : STAY 4 : to resume an activity after interruption ~ *vi* 1 a : KEEP UP, MAINTAIN (~s walking) b : to keep going or add to : PROLONG; *also* : to allow to remain in a place or condition : RETAIN 4 : to postpone (a legal proceeding) by a continuance — **con-tin-u-er** \-'yū-ər\ *n*

syn CONTINUE, LAST, ENDURE, ABIDE, PERSIST mean to exist over a period of time or indefinitely. **CONTINUE** applies to a process going on without ending (the search for peace will *continue*). **LAST**, esp. when unqualified, may stress existing beyond what is normal or expected (buy what will *last*). **ENDURE** adds an implication of resisting destructive forces or agencies (in spite of everything, her faith *endured*). **ABIDE** implies stable and constant existing esp. as opposed to mutability (a love that *abides* through 40 years of marriage). **PERSIST** suggests outlasting the normal or appointed time and often connotes obstinacy or doggedness (the sense of guilt *persisted*).

continued *adj* (15c) 1 : lasting or extending without interruption (~ success) 2 : resumed after interruption (a ~ story)

continued fraction *n* (ca. 1856) : a fraction whose numerator is an integer and whose denominator is an integer plus a fraction whose numerator is an integer and whose denominator is an integer plus a fraction and so on

con-tin-u-ing *adj* (14c) 1 : CONTINUOUS, CONSTANT (~ poverty) 2 : needing no renewal : ENDURING (~ fame) — **con-tin-u-ing-ly** *adv*

continuing education *n* (1954) : formal courses of study for adult part-time students

con-tin-u-ity \kan-'tī-'yū-ə-tē-, -yū-\ *n*, *pl* -tī-tēs (15c) 1 a : uninterrupted connection, succession, or union b : uninterrupted duration or continuation esp. without essential change 2 : something that has, exhibits, or provides continuity; as : a script or scenario for a radio forming arts b : transitional spoken or musical matter esp. for a radio or television program c : the story and dialogue of a comic strip 3 : the property of being mathematically continuous

con-tin-u-ous \kan-'tī-'yū-əs\ *adj* [L. *continuus*, fr. *continere* to hold together — more at **CONTAIN**] (1673) 1 : marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time, or sequence 2 of a function : having the property that the absolute value of the numerical difference between the value at a given point and the value at any point in a neighborhood of the given point can be made as close to zero as desired by choosing the neighborhood small enough *syn* see **CONTINUAL** — **con-tin-u-ously** *adv* — **con-tin-u-ous-ness** *n*

con-tin-u-um \kan-'tī-'yū-əm\ *n*, *pl* -ua \-'yū-ə\ *also* -u-ums [L; neut. of *continuus*] (1646) 1 : a coherent whole characterized as a collection, sequence, or progression of values or elements varying by minute degrees ('good' and 'bad' ~ stand at opposite ends of a ~ instead of describing the two halves of a line — Wayne Shumaker) 2 : the set of real numbers including both the rationals and the irrationals; *broadly* : a compact set which cannot be separated into two sets neither of which contains a limit point of the other

contort \kan-'tōrt\ *v* [ME, fr. L. *contortus*, pp. of *contorquere*, fr. *com-* + *tortere* to twist — more at **TORTURE**] *v* (15c) : to twist in a violent manner (features ~ed with fury) ~ *vi* : to twist into or as if into a strained shape or expression *syn* see **DEFORM** — **con-tor-tion** \-'tōr-shən\ *n* — **con-tor-tive** \-'tōr-tiv\ *adj*

con-tor-tion-ist \kan-'tōr-tiōn(-ist)\ *n* (1859) : one who contorts; *specif* : an acrobat able to twist the body into unusual postures — **con-tor-tion-ist-ic** \-'tōr-shə-'nis-tik\ *adj*

con-tour \kan-'tūr\ *n* [F, fr. It. *contorno*, fr. *contornare* to round off, fr. ML to turn around, fr. L. *com-* + *tornare* to turn on a lathe — more at **TURN**] (1662) 1 : an outline esp. of a curving or irregular figure : SHAPE; *also* : the line representing this outline 2 : the general form or structure of something : CHARACTERISTIC — often used in pl. (~s of a melody) (to delineate the tortured psychological ~s of the tribal past — B. J. Phillips) 3 : a usu. meaningful change in intonation in speech

syn see **OUTLINE**

contour *adj* (1844) 1 : following (~ farming) 2 : made to fit the contours along them (~ hooding) (~ farming) 2 : made to fit the contour of something (a ~ couch) (~ streets)

contour *v* (1871) 1 a : to shape the contour of b : to shape so as to fit contours 2 : to construct (as a road) in conformity to a contour

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